

#### Memorandum

Department of Justice To

From Chlopak, Leonard, Schechter & Associates

Registration number 5774

June 9, 2009 **Date** 

Distributing Advisories for Foreign Agents Re

The attached E-Alert was sent out to members of the American Media and Think Tanks on June 8, 2009.

# **Egypt E-Alert**



On June 2, 2009, President Obama gave his first interview to the BBC, and spoke to North America Correspondent Justin Webb about the Middle East. The interview took place two days before President Obama gave an historic address to the Muslim World from Cairo, Egypt. In the interview, President Obama was asked for his opinion of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

Justin Webb: Do you regard President Mubarak as an authoritarian ruler?

**President Obama:** No, I tend not to use labels for folks. I haven't met him. I've spoken to him on the phone.

He has been a stalwart ally in many respects, to the United States. He has sustained peace with Israel, which is a very difficult thing to do in that region.

But he has never resorted to, you know, unnecessary demagoging of the issue, and has tried to maintain that relationship. So I think he has been a force for stability. And good in the region.

To read the full text of the interview, please click <u>here</u>.

This material is distributed by Chlopak, Leonard, Schechter & Associates on behalf of the Egyptian Press and Information Office. Additional information is available at the Department of Justice, Washington, DC.

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CRM/CES/REGISTRATION UNIT

## **Egypt E-Alert**



### Egypt meets with Hamas's Meshaal to contain crisis

Tue Jun 9, 2009 By Nidal al-Mughrabi

CAIRO, June 9 (Reuters) - Egypt's intelligence chief held talks with Hamas leader Khaled Meshaal on Tuesday aimed at containing a crisis after West Bank raids by Western-backed Palestinian security forces on Hamas targets sparked clashes.

Damascus-based Meshaal's visit to Cairo is his first in many months, and the talks come two days after Egyptian officials met leaders from Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas's Fatah group, which launched last week's raids that killed nine people in ensuing violence in the West Bank city of Qalqilya.

Egyptian officials met with Ahmed Qurei on Sunday, who leads Fatah negotiators in Cairosponsored reconciliation talks, to find ways to sustain talks and end clashes, arrests and counter-arrests by forces loyal to Fatah and Hamas.

Hamas spokesman Taher al-Nono said Tuesday's talks would focus on the repercussions of last week's raids and hoped Egypt would help "compel the Palestinian Authority to stop the assaults against our people in the West Bank".

Egyptian mediators stepped up pressure on the groups to form a unity government by setting a July 7 deadline to bridge divisions. That would prepare the ground for a gradual restoration of unity and allow holding presidential and parliamentary election in January 2010.

### To read the full text of the article, please click <u>here</u>.

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